

WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

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Washington's Total Earnings Compared to the U.S. and Other Western States

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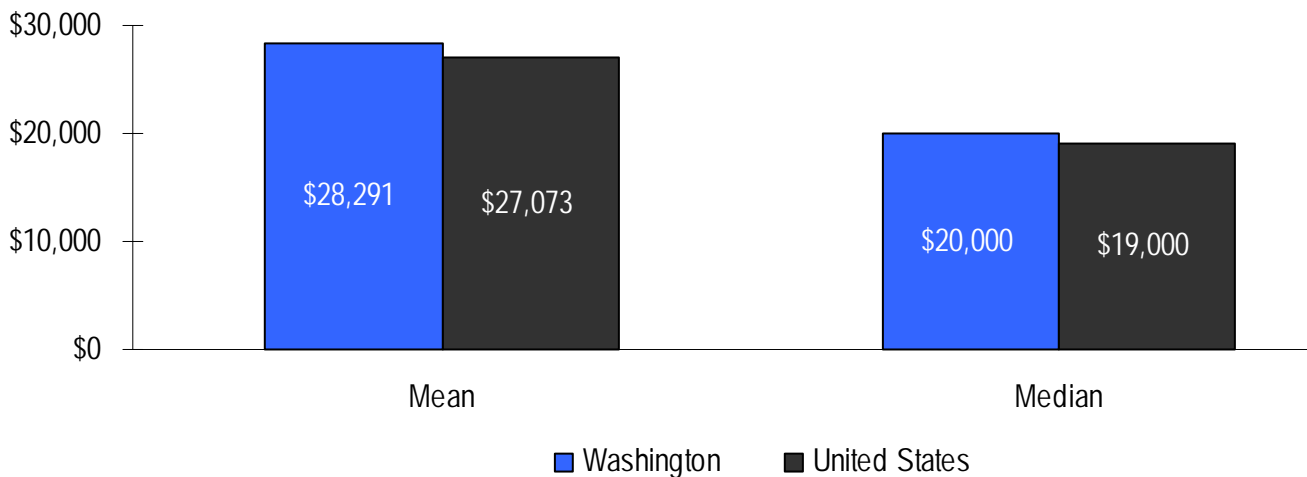
Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings were examined for all adults aged 18 to 64 (regardless of their work status) in both Washington State and the U.S. In 1999, Washington's mean and median total earnings were higher than the U.S. as a whole (see Figure 1). Washington State's mean earnings were \$28,291 dollars, \$1,218 dollars more than the U.S. mean earnings. Washington State's median earnings were \$20,000 dollars, \$1,000 dollars more than the U.S. mean earnings (for more details on why mean earnings were greater than the median earnings see [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999](#)).

Washington vs. Other Western States

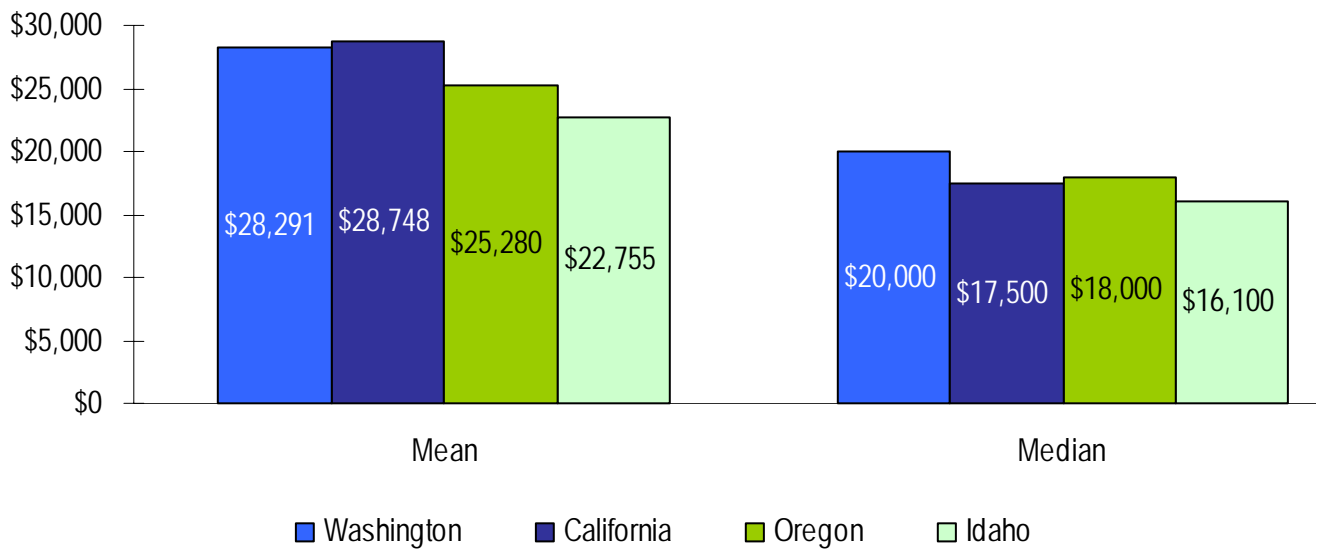
Washington's mean earnings were comparable to California's mean earnings and higher than the mean earnings for Oregon and Idaho. At \$28,748 dollars, California's mean earnings were only \$457 dollars higher than Washington's mean earnings. The mean earnings for Oregon were \$25,280 dollars, \$3,011 dollars less than the mean earnings for Washington. Idaho had the lowest mean earnings of the four states examined. Mean earnings in Idaho were only \$22,755 dollars or \$5,536 dollars less than the mean earnings of Washington State residents.

At \$20,000 dollars, Washington State had the highest median earnings among the four states examined. Oregon, with median earnings at \$18,000 dollars, had the second highest earnings. California had the third highest median earnings followed by Idaho.

Figure 1: 1999 Mean and Median Total Earnings for Washington State and the United States



The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on this survey can be found at the Census website:
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

Figure 2: 1999 Mean and Median Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States

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